

New Orleans, La, July 5<sup>th</sup> 1864

Dear Mother,

I received your very kind letter and package day before yesterday, and was very glad to get them. I have got quite a picture gallery now to look at, but had much rather see the original ones.

Alice's picture is a first rate one, it don't seem as if she had grown any hardly. Susan's picture looks as if she had grown old very fast, it looks to be about ten years older than she did when I saw her last. I *recieved* Ellen's photograph last week, I would not have known it if I had seen it any where else, she has got to be quite an old woman, all of them look about ten years older than they did when I last saw them, except Alice, she had not altered any scarcely as I can see in her looks.

The Regt. was here in the City two days at the Alabama Cotton Press, about three miles from here, and I could not get a pass to go and see Harrison. I tried yesterday to get a pass, I told the Dr. what I wanted to go for but it was no use, I was bound to go so I jumped over the fence passed the guards, and went up there but they had gone, our company and three others went in the morning on board of the steamer Cresent, and the other six companies were there at the wharf on a boat ready to start, I saw some of our boys that got left, they said that he was well, he was in the same fix that I was, he could not get out, he was in a place that he could not jump out, for it is enclosed with high walls, if he had been no doubt he would have done the same that I did.

If I had thought that they was going away so soon I would went the first day the Dr. refused me a pass but I thought that they was going to stay there a few days, and I supposed that he would give me a pass the next day.

The excuse he made the first time was "that it was after the hour of the day for giving passes," and the next day he said that I had a pass but a few days before and that would do me. I tell you I came back here ~~to~~ in no very good humor. I was mad enough to cry if it would have done any good. If this ever comes to an end there is some of these "shoulder strap" men that will suffer. You want me to write about how the sick are cared for here, well they have a great deal better care than you ~~have~~ you imagine, we have good beds to sleep in as good as I ever want, we get clean clothes every Sunday morning,

I can get them as often as I want to change, as far as our victuals is concerned it is good enough for me, but some will find fault, we get vegetables almost every day for Dinner and butter for Breakfast & supper, good bread & salt-meat or pudding and tea, them that are very sick get of course a great deal better the Sanitary Commission furnishes them with a good deal of preserves and wine, but they don't get half enough of it here, there is a great many dies here with the *Diarrhoea*, two have died this morning in this ward, it is very warm here now. I wear nothing through the day but my shirts and drawers and slippers. I am agoing to the Regt. just as soon as I can, there is *know* body knows where they are going but the ones that sent them.

Give my love to all.

J. Francis Brand